

ISSUE DATE: June 16, 1998

DOCKET NO. P-407, 430/CP-96-378

ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS AND DENYING PETITION

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Edward A. Garvey
Joel Jacobs
Marshall Johnson
LeRoy Koppendrayer
Gregory Scott

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area
Service From Hanley Falls to Granite Falls

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PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On April 8, 1996, subscribers in the Hanley Falls exchange submitted a petition for Extended Area Service (EAS) to Granite Falls. Hanley Falls is served by GTE-Minnesota (GTE) and Granite Falls is served by Sprint/United Telephone Company (United).

On June 20, 1996, GTE submitted a traffic study.

On December 26, 1996, the Minnesota Department of Public Service (the Department) filed comments with the Commission recommending that the Commission direct the affected telephone companies to file cost studies and proposed rates.

On February 6, 1997, the Commission issued its ORDER REQUIRING COST STUDIES AND PROPOSED RATES. In this Order, the Commission found that the Hanley Falls petition met the Commission's adjacency and traffic criteria and directed GTE and United to file cost studies and proposed rates.

Between June 5 and June 19, 1997, GTE and United submitted cost studies and proposed rates.

On July 18, 1997, the Department filed comments.

On August 7, 1997, GTE filed reply comments.

On November 14, 1997, the Commission issued its ORDER ESTABLISHING RATES FOR POLLING, directing GTE to cooperate fully with Commission staff and contractors to conduct a poll of telephone subscribers in the Hanley Falls exchange.

Between March 5 and April 20, 1998, polling of telephone subscribers in the Hanley Falls

exchange was conducted.

The Commission met on May 5, 1998 to consider this matter.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The final criterion for an EAS petition is whether there is adequate customer support for the proposed EAS route. If a majority of customers vote in favor of installing the proposed EAS, the Commission is authorized and directed to order the relevant local telephone company to install the service. If not, the petition must be denied.

The Commission has reviewed the results of the polling of Hanley Falls customers and will certify the following results. With 71.8 percent participation, the results were:

Voting Exchange	Petitioned Exchange(s)	Res. EAS Rate	Bus. EAS Rate	% Voting	Yes		No	
					#	%	#	%
Hanley Falls	Granite Falls	\$7.84	\$15.67	71.8	74	44.0	94	56.0

Since less than a majority of the Hanley Falls customers responding to the poll voted in favor of installing the proposed EAS route between Hanley Falls and Granite Falls, the Commission will deny this petition and direct GTE, the local telephone company serving the Hanley Falls exchange, to notify its customers, as set forth in more detail in the Ordering Paragraphs.

ORDER

1. The polling results for the Hanley Falls exchange in this matter are hereby certified as set forth above.
2. In accord with the results of that polling, the Commission hereby denies the petition for EAS between Hanley Falls and the Granite Falls exchange.
3. Within 10 days of this Order, GTE-Minnesota (GTE or the Company) shall file proposed customer notices for approval by Commission Staff. The notices should list the results of the polling. After approval, the Company shall serve notices in the first possible billing cycle in their respective exchanges.

4. At the time the notices referred to in Ordering Paragraph 3 have been served, GTE shall file copies of the final notices with the Minnesota Department of Public Service and the Commission. Thereupon, the Hanley Falls docket (P- 407, 430/CP-96-378) will be closed.
5. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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